

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

Legal provisions

The system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853, and the registers contain all necessary information bearing on the family history of the people. The statutory duties under the Registration Act are performed by the Government Statist, who has supervision over registration officers, registrars of marriages, and (relating to their registration duties) the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by the Government Statist or by an Assistant Government Statist or an authorised registration officer are *prima facie* evidence in the courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the Government Statist's Office (295 Queen Street, Melbourne) there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1 July 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837.

The various Acts relating to the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria were consolidated in 1958.

In November 1959 a Bill was placed before the Victorian Parliament to reorganise the system of registration of births and deaths in Victoria. This new legislation, known as the *Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act 1959*, which came into operation on 1 October 1960, was designed to allow registrations of births and deaths to be effected by post instead of through those persons who previously held office as Registrars of Births and Deaths. No alteration, however, was made to the system of registration of marriages. In 1961 the Commonwealth Parliament passed the *Marriage Act 1961*. A few minor provisions (relating mainly to certain extensions of the application of the prohibited degrees) came into operation on the date the Act received the Royal Assent (6 May 1961), and the remainder of the Act came into operation on 1 September 1963. On this date the Act superseded the marriage laws of all the States, the two mainland Territories, and Norfolk Island.

Statistical summary

The principal vital statistics in Victoria from 1972 to 1976 are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Number registered				Infant death rate (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)
	Marriages	Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths (a)	
1972	31,206	71,807	29,856	1,048	14.6
1973	30,203	67,123	30,696	958	14.3
1974	29,708	66,201	30,875	989	14.9
1975	27,806	61,897	29,499	806	13.0
1976	28,760	60,667	30,753	702	11.6

(a) Included in deaths.

Marriages

Marriages registered in Victoria in 1976 numbered 28,760, an increase of 954 on the number registered in 1975.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF MARRIAGES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1972	41,520	31,206	16,066	10,829	9,120	3,426	490	1,372	114,029
1973	40,722	30,203	16,490	10,806	9,102	3,395	513	1,469	112,700
1974	39,327	29,708	16,086	10,769	9,295	3,567	566	1,355	110,673
1975	36,958	27,806	15,230	9,843	9,026	3,242	406	1,462	103,973
1976	38,487	28,760	16,703	10,902	9,517	3,477	541	1,586	109,973

No further details of marriages for 1976 were available at the time of publication; the following tables in this section, therefore, relate to 1975 and earlier years.

VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1975

Ages of bridegrooms (a)	Ages of brides (a) (years)														Total bridegrooms
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49	50 and over	
16	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
17	10	9	5	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
18	..	2	74	102	147	59	23	33	2	1	..	..	..	..	443
19	..	4	85	208	341	248	146	123	8	2	..	..	..	..	1,165
20	65	178	487	634	528	373	25	5	2	..	..	..	2,297
21 to 24	1	7	136	413	1,292	2,138	2,463	5,099	571	56	9	1	..	2	12,188
25 to 29	1	4	44	107	276	425	663	2,989	1,612	306	60	13	6	..	6,506
30 to 34	2	8	47	44	52	507	712	354	99	43	9	5	1,882
35 to 39	7	14	16	117	248	232	137	61	31	12	879
40 to 44	1	2	4	27	115	103	141	107	47	30	577
45 to 49	2	1	12	40	52	91	101	123	80	502
50 to 54	1	12	29	56	71	108	154	434
55 to 59	3	9	14	35	63	145	278	278
60 to 64	1	1	2	2	3	6	19	36	178	248
65 and over	3	1	1	4	19	338	366
Total brides	2	17	419	1,030	2,605	3,574	3,900	9,290	3,359	1,153	616	455	442	944	27,806

(a) The marriage of bridegrooms under 18 years and brides under 16 years of age is restricted by the provisions of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961.

**VICTORIA—PERCENTAGES OF BRIDEGROOMS
AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1975**

Age group (years)	Percentage of total		Age group (years)	Percentage of total	
	Bride- grooms	Brides		Bride- grooms	Brides
14	..	(a)	30 to 34	6.77	4.15
15	..	(a)	35 to 39	3.16	2.22
16	(a)	1.51	40 to 44	2.08	1.64
17	0.13	3.70	45 to 49	1.81	1.59
18	1.59	9.37	50 to 54	1.56	1.24
19	4.19	12.85	55 to 59	1.00	0.76
20	8.26	14.03	60 and over	2.21	1.40
21 to 24	43.83	33.41			
25 to 29	23.40	12.08	Total	100.00	100.00

(a) Less than 0.1

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS (a)

Year	Age in years							Total	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Number	Percentage of all marriages
BRIDEGROOMS									
1971	..	..	3	44	636	1,414	2,452	4,549	14.05
1972	..	..	2	51	621	1,342	2,353	4,369	14.00
1973	..	..	1	31	588	1,216	2,346	4,182	13.85
1974	..	..	4	48	582	1,299	2,407	4,340	14.61
1975	..	..	5	36	443	1,165	2,297	3,946	14.19
BRIDES									
1971	..	13	656	1,491	2,766	4,011	4,720	13,657	42.17
1972	3	24	632	1,443	2,651	3,994	4,341	13,088	41.94
1973	3	20	570	1,272	2,688	3,838	4,444	12,835	42.50
1974	7	20	512	1,180	2,845	3,967	4,304	12,835	43.20
1975	2	17	419	1,030	2,605	3,574	3,900	11,547	41.53

(a) An amendment to the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961, which came into effect on 1 July 1973, redefined a minor as "a person who has not attained the age of eighteen years" (previously 21 years).

A feature of Victorian marriages since the end of the Second World War has been the increase in the proportion of marriages which involve persons under 21. In 1947, 4.82 per cent of bridegrooms and 22.94 per cent of brides were under 21 years of age. In 1975 these percentages were 14.19 and 41.53, respectively, and in 12.11 per cent of marriages both parties were under 21 years of age.

VICTORIA—AVERAGE AGE AT MARRIAGE (a)

Year	Bridegrooms				Brides			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced men	All bride- grooms	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced women	All brides
1971	24.7	56.7	40.2	26.5	22.1	50.5	36.8	23.8
1972	24.7	56.9	40.2	26.5	22.1	51.4	36.5	23.9
1973	24.6	57.9	39.6	26.7	22.1	50.7	36.0	24.0
1974	24.6	57.1	39.4	26.7	22.1	50.7	36.3	24.1
1975	24.8	57.5	39.2	27.2	22.2	51.0	36.1	24.5

(a) Arithmetic mean.

The age in relation to which approximately half the number of bachelors was younger, and approximately half was older (the median age), was 23.5 years. The corresponding age for spinsters was 21.2 years. More bachelors were married at 22 years and spinsters at 20 years (the modal ages) than at any other age.

The following tables show the previous marital status of bridegrooms and brides marrying from 1971 to 1975 and the proportions by previous marital status for periods since 1940:

VICTORIA—PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES

Period	Bridegrooms			Brides			Total marriages
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced men	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced women	
1971	29,549	1,001	1,836	29,587	1,045	1,754	32,386
1972	28,403	929	1,874	28,369	1,037	1,800	31,206
1973	27,165	951	2,087	27,147	1,044	2,012	30,203
1974	26,628	946	2,134	26,677	1,015	2,016	29,708
1975	24,386	922	2,498	24,392	1,035	2,379	27,806

VICTORIA—BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS : NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES, 1940 TO 1975

Marriages between—	1975		Previous marital status	Percentage of total—			
	Number	Per-centage		1940-1949	1950-1959	1960-1969	1975
BRIDEGROOMS							
Bachelors and spinsters	22,890	82.3	Bachelors	90.5	89.5	91.6	87.7
Bachelors and widows	304	1.1	Widowers	4.9	4.5	3.4	3.3
Bachelors and divorced women	1,192	4.3	Divorced men	4.6	6.0	5.0	9.0
Widowers and spinsters	188	0.7	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Widowers and widows	454	1.6		BRIDES			
Widowers and divorced women	280	1.0	Spinsters	91.4	89.2	91.2	87.7
Divorced men and spinsters	1,314	4.7	Widows	3.9	4.4	3.6	3.7
Divorced men and widows	277	1.0	Divorced women	4.7	6.4	5.2	8.6
Divorced men and divorced women	907	3.3	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total marriages	27,806	100.0					

For many years civil marriage ceremonies have been performed at certain country centres and at the Office of the Government Statist in Melbourne. This situation changed during 1973 and 1974 with the appointment of a number of additional civil celebrants, the majority of whom operate in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Civil celebrants may marry couples at any location.

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES

Year	Total civil marriages		Performed in the Office of the Government Statist	
	Number	Percentage of total marriages	Number	Percentage of total civil marriages
1971	2,815	8.69	2,300	81.71
1972	3,505	11.23	3,008	85.82
1973	3,927	13.00	3,376	85.97
1974	4,449	14.98	3,069	68.98
1975	5,459	19.63	3,342	61.22

NOTE. In August 1971 the Melbourne location for civil marriages was moved to new premises where it became possible to perform more ceremonies each year.

In 1975 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 22,347, representing 80.37 per cent of total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 5,459, or 19.63 per cent of the total.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES : RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL, 1975

Category of celebrant	Number	Proportion of total marriages
Ministers of religion—		
Recognised denominations (a)—		
Roman Catholic Church	7,731	27.80
Church of England in Australia	5,078	18.26
The Presbyterian Church of Australia	3,499	12.58
The Methodist Church of Australasia	2,218	7.98
Orthodox Churches (b)	1,097	3.95
Churches of Christ in Australia	507	1.82
The Baptist Union of Australia	472	1.70
Congregational Union of Australia	322	1.16
Lutheran Church (b)	244	0.88
Jewry	176	0.63
The Salvation Army	151	0.54
Unitarians	148	0.53
Jehovah's Witnesses	96	0.35
Seventh-day Adventist Church	75	0.27
Islam	71	0.26
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	42	0.15
Assemblies of God in Australia	35	0.13
Revival Centres of Australia	28	0.10
Other recognised denominations	223	0.80
Other ministers	134	0.48
Total ministers of religion	22,347	80.37
Civil officers	5,459	19.63
Total marriages	27,806	100.00

(a) Under authority of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961.

(b) Includes churches grouped under this heading in the proclamation made under the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961.

Divorce

The *Family Law Act* 1975 came into operation throughout Australia on 5 January 1976. This Act repealed the *Matrimonial Causes Act* 1959 which had been operative since 1 February 1961. Divorce statistics for 1976 are shown in the supplement at the end of this *Year Book*, together with further information on the *Family Law Act* 1975.

The following tables relate to the year 1975, when the *Matrimonial Causes Act* 1959 was in operation. Shown below are the number of petitions filed by husbands and wives, respectively, and the number of dissolutions of marriage and nullities of marriage granted during the year 1975. Every decree of dissolution of marriage is in the first instance a decree nisi and is generally not made absolute until the expiration of not less than three months thereafter.

VICTORIA—DIVORCE, 1975

Petition for—	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husbands	Wives	Total	Husbands	Wives	Total
Dissolution	(a)2,215	(b)4,113	6,328	2,219	3,439	(c)5,663
Nullity	6	13	19	5	11	16
Judicial separation	..	2	2	..	4	4
Total	2,221	4,128	6,349	2,224	3,454	(c)5,683

(a) Includes one petition for dissolution or nullity.

(b) Includes one petition for dissolution or nullity.

(c) Includes five petitions granted to both parties of marriage.

VICTORIA—DIVORCE : PETITIONS FILED AND DECREES GRANTED :
DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION

Year	Petitions filed			Decrees granted		
	Dissolution (a)	Nullity	Judicial separation	Dissolution	Nullity	Judicial separation
1971	4,256	13	2	3,072	6	1
1972	4,518	11	4	3,655	9	..
1973	5,164	15	1	3,301	11	1
1974	6,565	5	1	4,450	14	1
1975	6,328	19	2	5,663	16	4

(a) Includes fourteen petitions for dual relief in 1971, fifteen in 1972, six in 1973, nine in 1974, and two in 1975.

NOTE : The number of decrees granted on an annual basis does not necessarily indicate precise trends in divorce rates as these figures may be affected from year to year by such administrative factors as the availability of courts or judges.

VICTORIA—DIVORCE : GROUNDS ON WHICH DECREES
WERE GRANTED, 1975

Grounds on which granted	Dissolution		Nullity		Judicial separation	
	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions
Adultery	1,023	1,090	..	..	..	1
Adultery and desertion	37	29	..	..	..	..
Cruelty	2	105	..	..	..	1
Desertion	764	1,592	..	..	..	2
Separation	338	458	..	..	..	..
Desertion and separation	37	71	..	..	..	..
Other grounds	18	94	5	11	..	..
Total	2,219	3,439	5	11	..	4

NOTE. In addition to the above there were five instances where dissolutions were granted to both parties.

VICTORIA—DIVORCE : DECREES GRANTED : AGES OF
PETITIONERS (AT DATE OF DECREE) AND ISSUE, 1975

Ages of petitioners (years)	Dissolution		Nullity		Judicial separation		Number of children (a)	
	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions	Husbands' petitions	Wives' petitions
Under 20	2	8	..	..	..	..	2	12
20-24	78	292	1	1	..	..	50	229
25-29	463	868	1	5	..	1	348	984
30-34	509	631	3	3	..	1	631	1,121
35-39	334	509	..	..	..	..	607	1,176
40-44	234	381	..	2	..	..	500	883
45-49	196	349	..	..	..	..	343	495
50-54	170	206	..	..	..	1	179	167
55-59	110	118	..	..	..	1	103	34
60 and over	123	77	..	..	..	..	22	13
Total	2,219	3,439	5	11	..	4	2,785	5,114

(a) Of the total 7,899 children shown above, eleven children were the issue of marriages for which nullities were granted and six children were the issue of a marriage for which a judicial separation was granted. In addition to the above, there were five instances involving a total of nine children where dissolutions were granted to both parties.

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED :
AGES OF PARTIES (AT DATE OF DECREE), 1975**

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (years)										Total husbands
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	
20-24	7	145	25	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	180
25-29	..	352	726	69	5	1	..	..	..	..	1,153
30-34	..	56	600	518	54	2	..	..	..	..	1,230
35-39	..	9	98	371	340	50	8	4	..	..	880
40-44	16	85	262	236	52	9	1	..	661
45-49	3	20	74	216	224	32	4	3	576
50-54	5	16	51	171	164	32	9	448
55-59	5	16	46	98	70	19	254
60 and over	1	1	..	6	26	37	74	136	281
Total wives	7	562	1,469	1,072	756	578	527	344	181	167	5,663

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED :
DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1975**

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dis- solutions	Total children (a)
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
1	7	1	2	..	..	..	..	10	5
2	33	9	1	2	..	1	..	46	22
3	93	26	2	1	..	..	..	122	33
4	207	62	19	2	..	1	..	291	111
5	234	127	29	4	1	..	..	395	201
6	189	144	61	8	4	3	..	409	321
7	133	135	98	18	2	2	1	389	410
8	120	114	93	25	6	..	1	359	407
9	73	97	118	34	6	1	1	330	470
10	47	68	109	29	12	1	2	268	438
11	48	55	102	38	15	1	..	259	438
12	31	37	70	49	24	3	1	215	441
13	30	20	69	43	22	2	3	189	403
14	23	20	67	53	16	5	1	185	408
15-19	105	104	232	170	103	27	32	773	1,829
20-24	99	84	166	114	75	27	15	580	1,287
25-29	200	119	78	36	17	3	7	460	515
30-34	141	38	25	6	4	1	..	215	127
35-39	100	6	4	2	..	..	..	112	20
40 and over	54	1	..	..	1	..	..	56	5
Total dissolutions of marriage	1,967	1,267	1,345	634	308	78	64	5,663	..
Total children	..	1,267	2,690	1,902	1,232	390	410	..	7,891

(a) Of the total of 7,891 children shown above, nine children were the issue of marriages for which dissolutions were granted to both parties.

Births

The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1976 was 60,667.

Stillbirths, which are excluded from births and deaths, numbered 616 and corresponded to a rate of 10.05 per 1,000 births live and still in 1976. The compulsory registration of stillborn children became effective in 1953.

The following table shows the number of births in each State and Territory from 1972 to 1976:

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1972	95,278	71,807	39,251	21,844	22,177	7,824	2,722	4,066	264,969
1973	87,332	67,123	38,067	20,407	20,510	7,326	2,808	4,096	247,669
1974	86,162	66,201	37,852	20,181	20,207	7,398	2,808	4,368	245,177
1975	80,918	61,897	36,403	19,986	20,338	6,982	2,118	4,370	233,012
1976	78,492	60,667	35,243	18,947	20,670	6,702	2,607	4,482	227,810

**VICTORIA—BIRTHS BY SEX, MASCULINITY, AVERAGE AGE
OF FATHER AND MOTHER**

Year	Males	Females	Total	Masculinity (a)	Confinements average age (b)		
					Nuptial		Ex-nuptial
					Father	Mother	Mother (c)
1972	36,842	34,965	71,807	105.37	29.7	26.7	22.8
1973	34,405	32,718	67,123	105.16	29.6	26.6	23.0
1974	33,993	32,208	66,201	105.54	29.6	26.6	23.0
1975	31,904	29,993	61,897	106.37	29.6	26.7	23.2
1976	31,068	29,599	60,667	104.96	29.7	26.8	23.3

(a) Number of male births per 100 female births.

(b) Arithmetic mean.

(c) Information is not available to allow the calculation of the average age of fathers of ex-nuptial children.

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS : AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND
PREVIOUS ISSUE, 1976**

Age group of mother (years)	Number of married mothers with previous issue numbering—											Total married mothers
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 and over	Not stated	
Under 20	2,506	512	24	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,043
20-24	9,450	6,508	1,400	193	26	2	..	..	..	..	..	17,579
25-29	7,176	9,571	4,594	1,148	234	53	13	2	..	..	..	22,791
30-34	1,639	2,915	2,608	1,205	426	171	45	21	9	4	..	9,043
35-39	382	597	617	430	252	136	84	43	29	20	..	2,590
40-44	72	84	84	70	76	57	33	17	10	32	..	535
45-49	4	1	3	3	5	4	8	3	6	8	..	45
50 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Age not stated	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Total	21,230	20,190	9,332	3,050	1,019	423	183	86	54	65	..	55,632
Proportion of total married mothers	38.16	36.29	16.77	5.48	1.83	0.76	0.33	0.15	0.10	0.12	..	100.00

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS :
NUMBER OF MOTHERS IN AGE GROUPS,
TOTAL ISSUE, AND AVERAGE ISSUE, 1976**

Age group of mother (years)	Number of mothers	Total issue	Average issue
Under 20	3,043	3,621	1.19
20-24	17,579	27,733	1.58
25-29	22,791	46,546	2.04
30-34	9,043	24,015	2.66
35-39	2,590	8,674	3.35
40-44	535	2,320	4.34
45-49	45	304	6.76
50 and over	1	11	11.00
Age not stated	5	11	2.20
Total	55,632	113,235	2.04

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS : RELATIVE
AGE GROUPS OF PARENTS, 1976**

Age group of father (years)	Age group of mother (years)									Total fathers
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	Not stated	
Under 20	429	92	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	522
20-24	1,917	6,711	862	50	5	..	..	..	1	9,546
25-29	573	8,870	12,419	1,009	58	2	..	..	2	22,933
30-34	98	1,587	7,652	4,554	344	22	..	..	1	14,258
35-39	18	252	1,512	2,599	1,157	73	1	..	..	5,612
40-44	2	40	237	633	707	213	7	..	..	1,839
45-49	2	11	70	144	253	172	25	..	..	677
50 and over	2	7	30	52	64	52	12	1	..	220
Not stated	2	9	8	2	2	1	..	..	1	25
Married mothers	3,043	17,579	22,791	9,043	2,590	535	45	1	5	55,632

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS : AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND
DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 1976**

Age group of mother (years)	Duration of marriage																			Total nuptial first births
	Months											Years								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5 and over			
Under 20	31	59	89	171	247	369	247	79	82	127	120	106	639	124	16			2,506		
20-24	35	39	68	106	163	237	219	117	139	248	263	237	2,820	2,507	1,492	585	175	9,450		
25-29	23	22	34	25	43	53	55	50	71	104	108	103	1,026	1,227	1,299	1,200	1,733	7,176		
30-34	13	16	9	9	25	24	24	25	29	36	39		319	214	169	154	525	1,639		
35-39	4	3	2	1	3	5	10	9	9	11	9	11	76	53	43	22	111	382		
40-44	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	5	10	11	6	6	24	72
45-49	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	4
50 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Total	106	141	204	312	465	689	555	279	328	521	538	501	4,890	4,138	3,027	1,967	2,569	21,230		

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE CONFINEMENTS (a)

Year	Cases of twins	Cases of triplets	Total multiple cases	Total confinements	Multiple cases per 1,000 total confinements
1972	771	5	776	71,034	10.92
1973	703	7	710	66,411	10.69
1974	593	3	596	65,606	9.08
1975	573	6	579	61,315	9.44
1976	663	5	(b)669	60,017	11.15

(a) Excludes confinements where the births were stillborn children only.

(b) Includes 1 case of quadruplets.

On the average of the five years 1972 to 1976, mothers of twins were one in 98 of all mothers whose confinements were recorded, mothers of triplets one in 12,476, and mothers of all multiple births one in 97.

The following tables show details of ex-nuptial births in each State and Territory for the years 1972 to 1976 and the ages of mothers of ex-nuptial children in Victoria :

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1972	9,766	5,001	5,185	1,803	2,632	695	356	221	25,659
1973	8,726	4,611	5,241	1,800	2,497	743	383	197	24,198
1974	8,371	4,394	4,955	1,879	2,352	788	458	211	23,408
1975	8,291	4,395	5,034	1,943	2,527	758	495	262	23,705
1976	7,991	4,426	4,664	1,789	2,621	706	614	253	23,064

AUSTRALIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS : PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1972	10.25	6.96	13.21	8.25	11.87	8.88	13.08	5.44	9.68
1973	9.99	6.87	13.77	8.82	12.17	10.14	13.64	4.81	9.77
1974	9.72	6.64	13.09	9.31	11.64	10.65	16.31	4.83	9.55
1975	10.25	7.10	13.83	9.72	12.43	10.86	23.37	6.00	10.17
1976	10.18	7.30	13.23	9.44	12.68	10.53	23.55	5.64	10.12

VICTORIA—AGES OF MOTHERS OF EX-NUPTIAL CHILDREN

Age of mother (years)	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
13	2	3	5	..	..
14	18	16	19	16	18
15	105	113	116	87	102
16	307	278	270	291	233
17	514	461	448	409	388
18	550	503	515	462	403
19	523	436	393	404	433
20	456	385	349	336	325
21-24	1,156	1,026	925	960	1,031
25-29	685	765	757	795	822
30-34	366	325	323	398	412
35-39	196	189	190	158	171
40-44	60	70	46	41	37
45 and over	7	6	3	1	1
Not stated	2	4	2	3	9
Total	4,947	4,580	4,361	4,361	4,385

VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS AND LEGITIMATIONS

Year	Number of children—	
	Adopted (a)	Legitimated (b)
1972	1,878	545
1973	1,766	596
1974	1,490	551
1975	1,229	489
1976	1,330	517

(a) Legal adoptions registered under the provisions of the Commonwealth *Adoption of Children Act* 1964.

(b) Legitimations registered. Under the provisions of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961, which came into operation on 1 September 1963, a child whose parents were not married to each other at the time of its birth becomes legitimised on the subsequent marriage of its parents. The legitimisation takes place whether or not there was a legal impediment to the marriage of the parents at the time of the child's birth and whether or not the child was still living at the time of the marriage, or in the case of a child born before 1 September 1963, at that date.

Deaths

By law, deaths occurring in Australia must be registered in the State in which they occur. The following statistics have been prepared from cause of death information supplied by medical practitioners and coroners for persons whose deaths were registered in the calendar years shown.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF DEATHS

Year of registration	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1972	41,652	29,856	16,598	9,764	7,441	3,227	553	669	109,760
1973	41,122	30,696	16,732	9,835	7,845	3,347	580	665	110,822
1974	43,999	30,875	18,128	10,236	7,778	3,484	575	758	115,833
1975	40,497	29,499	16,421	9,947	7,972	3,339	610	736	109,021
1976	42,122	30,753	17,257	9,999	7,740	3,389	567	853	112,680

*Causes of death**Classification*

Causes of death in Australia from 1968 onwards have been classified according to the Eighth (1965) Revision of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Classification of Diseases (ICD8). Particulars relate to the underlying cause of death, which WHO has defined as the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death. Accidental and violent deaths are classified according to the external cause, that is, to the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury, rather than to the nature of the injury.

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH : NUMBERS AND RATES, 1976

World Health Assembly List B cause group	Cause of death (a)	ICD8 category code numbers	Number of deaths	Proportion of total	Rate per 1,000,000 of mean population
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	008,009	63	0.20	17
B5	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	010-012	31	0.10	8
B6	Other tuberculosis, including late effects	013-019	13	0.04	3
B11	Meningococcal infection	036	2	0.01	1
B14	Measles	055	2	0.01	1
B17	Syphilis and its sequelae	090-097	3	0.01	1
B18	All other infective and parasitic diseases	(b)	66	0.21	18
B19	Malignant neoplasms—				
	Digestive organs and peritoneum	150-159	2,023	6.58	540
	Lung	162	1,171	3.81	312
	Skin	172, 173	126	0.41	34
	Breast	174	537	1.75	143
	Genital organs	180-187	703	2.29	188
	Urinary organs	188, 189	293	0.95	78
	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	204-207	236	0.77	63
	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	(c)	971	3.16	259
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	210-239	49	0.16	13
B21	Diabetes mellitus	250	603	1.96	161
B22	Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	260-269	31	0.10	8
B23	Anaemias	280-285	38	0.12	10
B24	Meningitis	320	16	0.05	4
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393-398	248	0.81	66
B27	Hypertensive disease	400-404	461	1.50	123
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	410-414	9,083	29.54	2,424
B29	Other forms of heart disease	420-429	1,191	3.87	318
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	4,025	13.09	1,074
B31	Influenza	470-474	208	0.68	56
B32	Pneumonia	480-486	646	2.10	172
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	490-493	1,442	4.69	385
B34	Peptic ulcer	531-533	164	0.53	44
B35	Appendicitis	540-543	17	0.06	5
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	550-553, 560	70	0.23	19
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	571	274	0.89	73
B38	Nephritis and nephrosis	580-584	175	0.57	47
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate	600	48	0.16	13
B41	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	{ 630-639 650-678 }	9	0.03	2
B42	Congenital anomalies	740-759	345	1.12	92
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	{ 764-768 772, 776 760-763 769-771 }	85	0.28	23
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	{ 773-775 777-779 }	225	0.73	60
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	780-796	147	0.48	39
	General arteriosclerosis	440	729	2.37	195
	Other diseases of circulatory system	441-458	553	1.80	148
B46	Other diseases of respiratory system	{ 460-466 500-519 }	196	0.64	52
	All other diseases	Residual	1,319	4.29	352
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	E810-E823	903	2.94	241
BE48	All other accidents	{ E800-E807 E825-E949 }	791	2.57	211
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	E950-E959	332	1.08	89
BE50	All other external causes	E960-E999	90	0.29	24
Total all causes			30,753	100.00	8,206

(a) No deaths were recorded in the following categories in 1976 : 1. Cholera (000), 2. Typhoid fever (001), 3. Bacillary dysentery and amoebiasis (004, 006), 7. Plague (020), 8. Diphtheria (032), 9. Whooping cough (033), 10. Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever (034), 12. Acute poliomyelitis (040-043), 13. Smallpox (050), 15. Typhus and other rickettsioses (080-083), 16. Malaria (084), 25. Active Rheumatic Fever (390-392), and 40. Abortion (640-645).

(b) 002, 003, 005, 007, 021-031, 035, 037-039, 044-046, 051-054, 056, 057, 060-068, 070-079, 085-089, 098-136.

(c) 140-149, 160, 161, 163, 170, 171, 190-199, 200-203, 208, 209.

In 1976 16,711 male and 14,042 female deaths were registered.

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1976

World Health Assembly List B cause group	Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
Under 1 year					
B42	Congenital anomalies	223	31.8	345	64.6
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	224	31.9	225	99.6
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	85	12.1	85	100.0
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	70	10.0	147	47.6
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoea diseases	20	2.8	63	31.7
B46 (part)	Other diseases of respiratory system	13	1.9	196	6.6
1-4 years					
B42	Congenital anomalies	35	22.3	345	10.1
BE48	All other accidents	35	22.3	791	4.4
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	29	18.5	903	3.2
B19	Malignant neoplasms	13	8.3	6,060	0.2
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	6	3.8	147	4.1
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	5	3.2	1,442	0.3
5-14 years					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	55	28.4	903	6.1
BE48	All other accidents	37	19.1	791	4.7
B19	Malignant neoplasms	32	16.5	6,060	0.5
B42	Congenital anomalies	21	10.8	345	6.1
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	6	3.1	1,442	0.4
B32	Pneumonia	3	1.5	646	0.5
15-24 years					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	328	54.5	903	36.3
BE48	All other accidents	59	9.8	791	7.5
B19	Malignant neoplasms	53	8.8	6,060	0.9
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	49	8.1	332	14.8
B42	Congenital anomalies	18	3.0	345	5.2
BE50	All other external causes	11	1.8	90	12.2
25-34 years					
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	114	24.6	903	12.6
B19	Malignant neoplasms	78	16.8	6,060	1.3
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	62	13.4	332	18.7
BE48	All other accidents	43	9.3	791	5.4
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	23	5.0	9,083	0.3
BE50	All other external causes	20	4.3	90	22.2
35-44 years					
B19	Malignant neoplasms	218	26.3	6,060	3.6
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	155	18.7	9,083	1.7
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	91	11.0	903	10.1
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	60	7.2	332	18.1
BE48	All other accidents	48	5.8	791	6.1
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	46	5.6	4,025	1.1
45-54 years					
B19	Malignant neoplasms	706	30.7	6,060	11.7
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	696	30.2	9,083	7.7
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	161	7.0	4,025	4.0
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	84	3.6	274	30.7
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	71	3.1	1,442	4.9
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	71	3.1	903	7.9
55-64 years					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	1,593	34.7	9,083	17.5
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,362	29.6	6,060	22.5
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	397	8.6	4,025	9.9
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	205	4.5	1,442	14.2
B29	Other forms of heart disease	97	2.1	1,191	8.1
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	90	2.0	274	32.8
65-74 years					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	2,640	34.9	9,083	29.1
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,799	23.8	6,060	29.7
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	877	11.6	4,025	21.8
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	473	6.3	1,442	32.8
B29	Other forms of heart disease	224	3.0	1,191	18.8
B21	Diabetes mellitus	201	2.7	603	33.3

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1976—*continued*

World Health Assembly List B cause group	Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
75 years and over					
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	3,975	29.8	9,083	43.8
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	2,523	18.9	4,025	62.7
B19	Malignant neoplasms	1,796	13.5	6,060	29.6
B29	Other forms of heart disease	778	5.8	1,191	65.3
B33	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	646	4.8	1,442	44.8
B46 (part)	Arteriosclerosis	645	4.8	729	88.5

(a) Deaths in this age group from the stated cause expressed as a percentage of deaths at all ages from that cause.

Diseases of the heart

During 1976 there were 10,843 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 248 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 321 to hypertensive heart disease, 5,841 to acute myocardial infarction, 3,242 to other ischaemic heart disease, and 1,191 to other forms of heart disease. Only a small proportion of deaths from heart diseases occurs at ages under 45 years. However, as the previous table shows, ischaemic heart disease is the major cause of death at ages 55 years and over. Deaths in 1976 from this cause by sex and age group are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASES
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1976

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Rheumatic fever with heart involvement (391)	M	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chronic rheumatic heart disease (393-398)	M	11	16	28	35	27	117
	F	6	8	31	42	44	131
Hypertensive heart disease (402, 404)	M	..	5	13	35	57	110
	F	..	1	10	43	157	211
Acute myocardial infarction (410)	M	69	332	779	1,224	1,117	3,521
	F	11	64	254	639	1,352	2,320
Other ischaemic heart disease (411-414)	M	80	246	435	521	650	1,932
	F	19	54	125	256	856	1,310
Other forms of heart disease (420-429)	M	20	43	65	135	251	514
	F	15	14	32	89	527	677
Total	M	180	642	1,320	1,950	2,102	6,194
	F	51	141	452	1,069	2,936	4,649

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

Malignant neoplasms

Since the introduction of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD8) in 1968, deaths classified as malignant neoplasms include deaths from polycythaemia vera and myelofibrosis. These were not previously included with neoplasms. Deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1976 numbered 6,060.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms are prominent at most age periods, but, as the table on page 231 shows, they characteristically increase with age, reaching

a maximum number in the two oldest age groups. Ninety-three per cent of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in the year 1976 were at ages 45 years and over.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1976

Site of disease (a)	Sex	Age group (years)				Total
		Under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Buccal cavity and pharynx (140-149)	M	1	5	49	50	105
	F	..	1	9	19	29
Oesophagus (150)	M	..	4	39	53	96
	F	..	..	17	40	57
Stomach (151)	M	..	6	101	146	253
	F	..	4	42	150	196
Intestine, except rectum (152, 153)	M	..	11	105	202	318
	F	..	14	111	282	407
Rectum and rectosigmoid junction (154)	M	..	4	44	96	144
	F	..	2	32	75	109
Trachea, bronchus, and lung (162)	M	..	24	364	564	952
	F	..	9	98	112	219
Breast (174)	M	..	..	1	5	6
	F	..	46	240	245	531
Cervix uteri (180)	M	..	13	57	28	98
	F	..	2	19	58	79
Other and unspecified parts of uterus (181, 182)	M	..	..	..	..	..
Ovary, fallopian tube, and broad ligament (183)	M	..	21	54	77	153
Prostate (185)	M	..	1	44	291	336
Bladder (188)	M	..	2	30	95	127
	F	..	1	8	40	49
Other and unspecified urinary organs (189)	M	..	..	26	42	68
	F	..	2	17	29	49
Brain and other parts of nervous system (191, 192)	M	13	16	49	27	105
	F	12	8	42	22	84
Leukaemia (204-207)	M	18	9	34	59	120
	F	18	6	34	58	116
Other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system (200-203, 208, 209)	M	7	12	48	74	141
	F	5	6	38	83	132
All other and unspecified sites	M	17	44	197	272	530
	F	8	23	119	301	451
Total	M	56	138	1,131	1,976	3,301
	F	45	158	937	1,619	2,759

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

Cerebrovascular diseases

In 1976, 1,585 male and 2,440 female deaths were ascribed to cerebrovascular diseases. The table on pages 229 and 230 shows that cerebrovascular diseases (cause group B30) first appears as one of the main causes of death at ages 35 years and over; they become an increasing proportion of deaths in the older age groups accounting for 19 per cent of deaths at ages 75 years and over. Deaths from these diseases by age group and sex are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1976

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Subarachnoid haemorrhage (430)	M	17	18	18	20	5	78
	F	25	33	31	29	14	132
Cerebral haemorrhage (431)	M	13	36	75	90	123	337
	F	5	17	44	78	282	426
Cerebral infarction (432-434)	M	4	12	45	85	183	329
	F	1	5	29	100	449	584
Acute but ill-defined cerebrovascular disease (436)	M	2	29	73	197	358	659
	F	..	7	66	209	736	1,018
Other and ill-defined cerebrovascular diseases (435, 437, 438)	M	..	3	9	42	128	182
	F	..	1	7	27	245	280
Total	M	36	98	220	434	797	1,585
	F	31	63	177	443	1,726	2,440

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 category code numbers.

Diseases of the respiratory system

In 1976 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system numbered 2,492. Of these deaths, 208 were due to influenza, 29 to other acute respiratory infections, 646 to pneumonia, 1,442 to bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma, and 167 to other diseases. Of the 208 deaths from influenza in 1976, ninety-three per cent were at ages 50 years and over.

Diseases of the digestive system

In 1976 there were 475 male and 309 female deaths from diseases of the digestive system. Deaths from causes in this group in 1976 were: 164 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 8 from gastritis and duodenitis, 17 from appendicitis, 70 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 8 from chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis, 274 from cirrhosis of the liver, 51 from cholelithiasis and cholecystitis, and 192 from other diseases.

Diabetes mellitus

During 1976 diabetes was responsible for 266 male and 337 female deaths.

Diseases of the genito-urinary system

In 1976 there were 386 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. Nephritis and nephrosis were responsible for 175 deaths, infections of the kidney for 68, calculi of the urinary system for 13, hyperplasia of prostate for 48, and other diseases of the genito-urinary system for 82.

Tuberculosis

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1976 was 44. Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1976 numbered 31 (70 per cent of the total deaths from tuberculosis). Of the 23 males and 8 females dying from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1976, only three males were under the age of 45 years.

Deaths from external causes

External causes of death such as accidents, poisonings, and violence, including homicide and suicide, accounted for 7 per cent of all deaths registered in 1976. However, these causes were responsible for 60 per cent of the deaths of persons aged 1 to 34 years.

The table "Main Causes of death in age groups" on pages 229 and 230 shows that external causes (Cause groups BE 47-50) predominate in the various age groups after the first year of life to middle age, but become progressively less prominent in the older age groups. In 1976 66 per cent of all deaths from external causes were male.

Transport accidents

In 1976 registration of deaths from all transport accidents numbered 968, compared with 938 in 1975, 962 in 1974, 1,032 in 1973 and 1,024 in 1972. During 1976 deaths connected with transport represented 57 per cent of the total deaths from accidents. Of the 968 deaths, 903 involved motor vehicles.

Injury undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted

In many cases it is not possible to determine whether death from an external cause was accidentally or purposely inflicted, i.e., whether the death was due to accident, suicide, or homicide. Before 1968 such deaths had been included with known accidental deaths. With the introduction of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases, a separate category was created to include cases where the mode of infliction was undetermined. Deaths allocated to these categories in 1976 totalled 37.

Suicide and self-inflicted injury

In 1976 deaths from suicide or wilfully self-inflicted injury numbered 233 males and 99 females. Of the 233 male deaths in 1976, 73 were connected with firearms and explosives, and 42 with poisoning by solid or liquid substances. The latter accounted for 54 of the 99 female deaths.

Homicide

The number of deaths ascribed to homicide and registered in 1976 was 53 (37 males and 16 females).

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HOMICIDE (a)

Year	Males	Females	Total
1972	33	19	52
1973	34	24	58
1974	54	26	80
1975	33	15	48
1976	37	16	53

(a) Deaths from injuries inflicted by another person with intent to injure or kill, by any means.

NOTE. Deaths from criminal abortion are excluded from this category and included with deaths from maternal causes.

Infant deaths

The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to live births, has declined remarkably. The infant death rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) has fallen from 133 in 1885-1889 to 14 in 1972-1976 (a reduction of 89 per cent). In other words, of every 100 infants who died in the earlier period, only 11 would have died in the latter.

A significant part of the reduction in the rate in recent years has been due to fewer infants dying within the first four weeks of life.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1972	1,663	1,048	697	367	348	127	113	67	4,430
1973	1,491	958	666	276	394	137	100	63	4,085
1974	1,428	989	606	312	327	123	103	70	3,958
1975	1,231	806	547	222	271	128	58	62	3,325
1976	1,151	702	535	276	273	77	59	76	3,149

AUSTRALIA—INFANT DEATH RATES (a)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1972	17.5	14.6	17.8	16.8	15.7	16.2	41.5	16.5	16.72
1973	17.1	14.3	17.5	13.5	19.2	18.7	35.6	15.4	16.49
1974	16.6	14.9	16.0	15.5	16.2	16.6	36.7	16.0	16.14
1975	15.2	13.0	15.0	11.1	13.3	18.3	27.4	14.2	14.27
1976	14.7	11.6	15.2	14.6	13.2	11.5	22.6	17.0	13.82

(a) Number of deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS

Year	Melbourne Statistical Division		Remainder of Victoria		Victoria	
	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births
1972	764	14.8	284	14.1	1,048	14.6
1973	681	14.1	277	14.7	958	14.3
1974	708	14.9	281	14.9	989	14.9
1975	591	13.5	215	12.0	806	13.0
1976	472	11.1	230	12.7	702	11.6

NOTE. Births and deaths registered in Victoria are allotted to the place of usual residence of the parties. In the cases of births and infant deaths, the mother's residence is considered to be that of the child.

Infant death rates have shown a decrease in each quinquennial period from 1885 onwards. In 1954 the rate fell below 20 per 1,000 live births for the first time. In 1976 the rate was 11.6, the lowest ever recorded in Victoria.

The decrease in the infant death rate since the earlier periods has been shared proportionally by each age group except that of "under one week". The rate for infants "one week and under one month" declined from 11.1 in 1910-1914 to 1.3 in 1972-1976, a decrease of 88 per cent, and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41.2 to 3.9, a decrease of 91 per cent. Between the ages of one month and one year, Victoria lost 64 out of every 1,000 children born in 1900-1904, 33 in 1915-1919, and 3 in 1972-76. The rate per 1,000 live births for infants "under one week" has declined from 21.5 in the quinquennium 1910-1914 to 8.5 in 1972-1976. In 1976 the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 60 per cent of the total infant mortality.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATH RATES BY AGE

Year	Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births					Total
	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	
1972	9.8	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	14.6
1973	9.2	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.0	14.3
1974	9.3	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.3	14.9
1975	7.5	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.1	13.0
1976	6.9	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	11.6

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES BY SEX, 1976

Particulars	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	Total under one year
Males—						
Number	218	48	38	38	33	375
Rate (a)	3.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	6.2
Percentage of total	58.1	12.8	10.1	10.1	8.8	100.0
Females—						
Number	200	43	28	30	26	327
Rate (a)	3.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.4	5.4
Percentage of total	61.2	13.1	8.6	9.2	8.0	100.0

(a) Number of deaths in each age group per 1,000 live births.

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females, and in the period 1972-1976 exceeded the female rate by 25 per cent.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES, BY CAUSE, 1976

Cause of death (a)	Deaths under one year					Total
	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	
Chronic circulatory and genito-urinary disease in mother (760)	2	..	..	..	..	2
Other maternal conditions unrelated to pregnancy (761)	9	..	..	..	..	9
Toxaemias of pregnancy (762)	13	1	..	..	..	14
Maternal ante- and intrapartum infection (763)	4	..	..	..	..	4
Difficult labour (764-768)	12	4	..	..	..	16
Other complications of pregnancy and childbirth (769)	126	10	..	..	..	136
Conditions of placenta (770)	36	3	..	..	..	39
Conditions of umbilical cord (771)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Birth injury and termination of pregnancy without mention of cause (772, 773)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Haemolytic disease of newborn (774, 775)	2	..	..	..	..	2
Anoxic and hypoxic conditions, not elsewhere classified (776)	60	4	3	2	..	69
Immaturity, unqualified (777)	9	..	1	..	..	10
Other conditions of newborn (778, 779)	7	..	1	..	..	8
Congenital anomalies (740-759)	118	54	16	18	17	223
Infections (000-136)	8	11	8	1	8	36
Pneumonia (480-486)	2	..	3	2	..	7
Other diseases (140-474, 490-738, 780-796)	10	4	32	39	28	113
Inhalation or ingestion of food or other object causing obstruction or suffocation, and accidental mechanical suffocation (E911-E913)	..	..	1	1	..	2
Other external causes (E800-E910, E914-E999)	..	..	1	5	6	12
Total all causes	418	91	66	68	59	702

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD8 Category code numbers.

Perinatal deaths

Legislation was passed in Victoria in 1971 which introduced a new definition of a perinatal death and a new type of death certificate which doctors were required to use for all perinatal deaths occurring on or after 1 May 1971.

Perinatal deaths comprise:

- (1) *Stillbirths*. Any child born of its mother after the 20th week of pregnancy which did not, at any time after being born, breathe or show any other sign of life; and where the duration of pregnancy is not reliably ascertainable, includes any foetus of 400 grams weight or more.
- (2) *Neonatal deaths*. The death of a live born child within 28 days of birth, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy.

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATHS

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1972	842	707	72	779	1,621
1973	802	615	74	689	1,491
1974	787	614	106	720	1,507
1975	713	463	83	546	1,259
1976	616	418	91	509	1,125

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATH RATES (a)

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1972	11.6	9.8	1.0	10.8	22.3
1973	11.8	9.2	1.1	10.3	22.0
1974	11.7	9.3	1.6	10.9	22.5
1975	11.4	7.5	1.3	8.8	20.1
1976	10.1	6.9	1.5	8.4	18.4

(a) Number of stillbirths and perinatal deaths per 1,000 births (live and still) and number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births.

Cremations

There are four crematoria in Victoria—three in the Melbourne metropolitan area and one in Ballarat. The number of cremations in relation to total deaths from 1972 to 1976 is shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—CREMATIONS AND DEATHS

Year	Total cremations	Total deaths registered	Percentage of cremations to deaths registered
1972	11,226	29,856	37.60
1973	11,667	30,696	38.01
1974	11,841	30,875	38.35
1975	11,508	29,499	39.01
1976	12,097	30,753	39.34

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